

1 AN ACT concerning Gulf War Veterans.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is
5 amended by changing Section 2 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/2) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 67)

7 Sec. 2. Powers and duties. The Department shall have
8 the following powers and duties:

9 To perform such acts at the request of any veteran, or
10 his or her spouse, surviving spouse or dependents as shall be
11 reasonably necessary or reasonably incident to obtaining or
12 endeavoring to obtain for the requester any advantage,
13 benefit or emolument accruing or due to such person under any
14 law of the United States, the State of Illinois or any other
15 state or governmental agency by reason of the service of such
16 veteran, and in pursuance thereof shall:

17 1. Contact veterans, their survivors and dependents
18 and advise them of the benefits of state and federal laws
19 and assist them in obtaining such benefits;

20 2. Establish field offices and direct the
21 activities of the personnel assigned to such offices;

22 3. Create a volunteer field force of accredited
23 representatives, representing educational institutions,
24 labor organizations, veterans organizations, employers,
25 churches, and farm organizations;

26 4. Conduct informational and training services;

27 5. Conduct educational programs through newspapers,
28 periodicals and radio for the specific purpose of
29 disseminating information affecting veterans and their
30 dependents;

31 6. Coordinate the services and activities of all

1 state departments having services and resources affecting
2 veterans and their dependents;

3 7. Encourage and assist in the coordination of
4 agencies within counties giving service to veterans and
5 their dependents;

6 8. Cooperate with veterans organizations and other
7 governmental agencies;

8 9. Make, alter, amend and promulgate reasonable
9 rules and procedures for the administration of this Act;
10 and

11 10. Make and publish annual reports to the Governor
12 regarding the administration and general operation of the
13 Department.

14 11. Encourage the State to implement more programs
15 to address the wide range of issues faced by Persian Gulf
16 War Veterans, especially those who took part in combat,
17 by creating an official commission to further study
18 Persian Gulf War Diseases. The commission shall consist
19 of 9 members appointed as follows: the Speaker and
20 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and the
21 President and Minority Leader of the Senate shall each
22 appoint one member from the General Assembly, the
23 Governor shall appoint 4 members to represent veterans'
24 organizations, and the Department shall appoint one
25 member. The commission members shall serve without
26 compensation.

27 12. Make grants, from moneys appropriated from the
28 Gulf War Memorial Fund, to private organizations for the
29 costs of erecting a Gulf War Memorial in Illinois.

30 The Department may accept and hold on behalf of the
31 State, if for the public interest, a grant, gift, devise or
32 bequest of money or property to the Department made for the
33 general benefit of Illinois veterans, including the conduct
34 of informational and training services by the Department and

1 other authorized purposes of the Department. The Department
 2 shall cause each grant, gift, devise or bequest to be kept as
 3 a distinct fund and shall invest such funds in the manner
 4 provided by the Public Funds Investment Act, as now or
 5 hereafter amended, and shall make such reports as may be
 6 required by the Comptroller concerning what funds are so held
 7 and the manner in which such funds are invested. The
 8 Department may make grants from these funds for the general
 9 benefit of Illinois veterans. Grants from these funds,
 10 except for the funds established under Sections 2.01a and
 11 2.03, shall be subject to appropriation.

12 (Source: P.A. 90-142, eff. 1-1-98; 90-168, eff. 7-23-97;
 13 90-655, eff. 7-30-98.)

14 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
 15 Section 5.545 as follows:

16 (30 ILCS 105/5.545 new)

17 Sec. 5.545. The Gulf War Memorial Fund.

18 Section 15. The Illinois Income Tax Act is amended by
 19 changing Sections 509 and 510 and by adding Section 507W as
 20 follows:

21 (35 ILCS 5/507W new)

22 Sec. 507W. Gulf War Memorial Fund. The Department shall
 23 print on its standard individual income tax form a provision
 24 indicating that if the taxpayer wishes to contribute to the
 25 Gulf War Memorial Fund, as authorized by this amendatory Act
 26 of the 92nd General Assembly, he or she may do so by stating
 27 the amount of the contribution (not less than \$1) on the
 28 return and that the contribution will reduce the taxpayer's
 29 refund or increase the amount of payment to accompany the
 30 return. Failure to remit any amount of increased payment

1 shall reduce the contribution accordingly. This Section does
2 not apply to any amended return.

3 (35 ILCS 5/509) (from Ch. 120, par. 5-509)

4 Sec. 509. Tax checkoff explanations. All individual
5 income tax return forms shall contain appropriate
6 explanations and spaces to enable the taxpayers to designate
7 contributions to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund, to the
8 Community Health Center Care Fund, to the Illinois Wildlife
9 Preservation Fund as required by the Illinois Non-Game
10 Wildlife Protection Act, to the Alzheimer's Disease Research
11 Fund as required by the Alzheimer's Disease Research Act, to
12 the Assistance to the Homeless Fund as required by this Act,
13 to the Heritage Preservation Fund as required by the Heritage
14 Preservation Act, to the Child Care Expansion Program Fund as
15 required by the Child Care Expansion Program Act, to the Ryan
16 White AIDS Victims Assistance Fund, to the Assistive
17 Technology for Persons with Disabilities Fund, to the
18 Domestic Violence Shelter and Service Fund, to the United
19 States Olympians Assistance Fund, to the Youth Drug Abuse
20 Prevention Fund, to the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Fund,
21 to the Literacy Advancement Fund, to the Ryan White Pediatric
22 and Adult AIDS Fund, to the Illinois Special Olympics
23 Checkoff Fund, to the Penny Severns Breast and Cervical
24 Cancer Research Fund, to the Korean War Memorial Fund, to the
25 Heart Disease Treatment and Prevention Fund, to the
26 Hemophilia Treatment Fund, to the Mental Health Research
27 Fund, to the Children's Cancer Fund, to the American Diabetes
28 Association Fund, to the National World War II Memorial Fund,
29 to the Prostate Cancer Research Fund, to the Gulf War
30 Memorial Fund, and to the Meals on Wheels Fund. Each form
31 shall contain a statement that the contributions will reduce
32 the taxpayer's refund or increase the amount of payment to
33 accompany the return. Failure to remit any amount of

1 increased payment shall reduce the contribution accordingly.

2 If, on October 1 of any year, the total contributions to
3 any one of the funds made under this Section do not equal
4 \$100,000 or more, the explanations and spaces for designating
5 contributions to the fund shall be removed from the
6 individual income tax return forms for the following and all
7 subsequent years and all subsequent contributions to the fund
8 shall be refunded to the taxpayer.

9 (Source: P.A. 90-171, eff. 7-23-97; 91-104, eff. 7-13-99;
10 91-107, eff. 7-13-99; 91-357, eff. 7-29-99; 91-833, eff.
11 1-1-01; 91-836, eff. 1-1-01.)

12 (35 ILCS 5/510) (from Ch. 120, par. 5-510)

13 Sec. 510. Determination of amounts contributed. The
14 Department shall determine the total amount contributed to
15 each of the following: the Child Abuse Prevention Fund, the
16 Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund, the Community Health
17 Center Care Fund, the Assistance to the Homeless Fund, the
18 Alzheimer's Disease Research Fund, the Heritage Preservation
19 Fund, the Child Care Expansion Program Fund, the Ryan White
20 AIDS Victims Assistance Fund, the Assistive Technology for
21 Persons with Disabilities Fund, the Domestic Violence Shelter
22 and Service Fund, the United States Olympians Assistance
23 Fund, the Youth Drug Abuse Prevention Fund, the Persian Gulf
24 Conflict Veterans Fund, the Literacy Advancement Fund, the
25 Ryan White Pediatric and Adult AIDS Fund, the Illinois
26 Special Olympics Checkoff Fund, the Penny Severns Breast and
27 Cervical Cancer Research Fund, the Korean War Memorial Fund,
28 the Heart Disease Treatment and Prevention Fund, the
29 Hemophilia Treatment Fund, the Mental Health Research Fund,
30 the Children's Cancer Fund, the American Diabetes
31 Association Fund, the National World War II Memorial Fund,
32 the Prostate Cancer Research Fund, the Gulf War Memorial
33 Fund, and the Meals on Wheels Fund; and shall notify the

1 State Comptroller and the State Treasurer of the amounts to
2 be transferred from the General Revenue Fund to each fund,
3 and upon receipt of such notification the State Treasurer and
4 Comptroller shall transfer the amounts.

5 (Source: P.A. 90-171, eff. 7-23-97; 91-104, eff. 7-13-99;
6 91-107, eff. 7-13-99; 91-833, eff. 1-1-01; 91-836, eff.
7 1-1-01.)

8 Section 20. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by
9 changing Section 3-412 and adding Section 3-648 as follows:

10 (625 ILCS 5/3-412) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 3-412)

11 Sec. 3-412. Registration plates and registration
12 stickers to be furnished by the Secretary of State.

13 (a) The Secretary of State upon registering a vehicle
14 subject to annual registration for the first time shall
15 issue or shall cause to be issued to the owner one
16 registration plate for a motorcycle, trailer, semitrailer,
17 motorized pedalcycle or truck-tractor, 2 registration plates
18 for other motor vehicles and, where applicable, current
19 registration stickers for motor vehicles of the first
20 division. The provisions of this Section may be made
21 applicable to such vehicles of the second division, as the
22 Secretary of State may, from time to time, in his discretion
23 designate. On subsequent annual registrations during the term
24 of the registration plate as provided in Section 3-414.1, the
25 Secretary shall issue or cause to be issued registration
26 stickers as evidence of current registration. However, the
27 issuance of annual registration stickers to vehicles
28 registered under the provisions of Section 3-402.1 of this
29 Code may not be required if the Secretary deems the issuance
30 unnecessary.

31 (b) Every registration plate shall have displayed upon
32 it the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which

1 it is issued, the name of this State, which may be
2 abbreviated, the year number for which it was issued, which
3 may be abbreviated, the phrase "Land of Lincoln", except as
4 provided in Sections 3-626, 3-629, 3-633, 3-634, 3-637,
5 3-638, and 3-642, and 3-648, and such other letters or
6 numbers as the Secretary may prescribe. However, for
7 apportionment plates issued to vehicles registered under
8 Section 3-402.1, the phrase "Land of Lincoln" may be omitted
9 to allow for the word "apportioned" to be displayed. The
10 Secretary may in his discretion prescribe that letters be
11 used as prefixes only on registration plates issued to
12 vehicles of the first division which are registered under
13 this Code and only as suffixes on registration plates issued
14 to other vehicles. Every registration sticker issued as
15 evidence of current registration shall designate the year
16 number for which it is issued and such other letters or
17 numbers as the Secretary may prescribe and shall be of a
18 contrasting color with the registration plates and
19 registration stickers of the previous year.

20 (c) Each registration plate and the required letters and
21 numerals thereon, except the year number for which issued,
22 shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a
23 distance of 100 feet during daylight, and shall be coated
24 with reflectorizing material. The dimensions of the plate
25 issued to vehicles of the first division shall be 6 by 12
26 inches.

27 (d) The Secretary of State shall issue for every
28 passenger motor vehicle rented without a driver the same type
29 of registration plates as the type of plates issued for a
30 private passenger vehicle.

31 (e) The Secretary of State shall issue for every
32 passenger car used as a taxicab or livery, distinctive
33 registration plates.

34 (f) The Secretary of State shall issue for every

1 motorcycle distinctive registration plates distinguishing
2 between motorcycles having 150 or more cubic centimeters
3 piston displacement, or having less than 150 cubic centimeter
4 piston displacement.

5 (g) Registration plates issued to vehicles for-hire may
6 display a designation as determined by the Secretary that
7 such vehicles are for-hire.

8 (h) The Secretary of State shall issue for each electric
9 vehicle distinctive registration plates which shall
10 distinguish between electric vehicles having a maximum
11 operating speed of 45 miles per hour or more and those having
12 a maximum operating speed of less than 45 miles per hour.

13 (i) The Secretary of State shall issue for every public
14 and private ambulance registration plates identifying the
15 vehicle as an ambulance. The Secretary shall forward to the
16 Department of Public Aid registration information for the
17 purpose of verification of claims filed with the Department
18 by ambulance owners for payment for services to public
19 assistance recipients.

20 (j) The Secretary of State shall issue for every public
21 and private medical carrier or rescue vehicle livery
22 registration plates displaying numbers within ranges of
23 numbers reserved respectively for medical carriers and rescue
24 vehicles. The Secretary shall forward to the Department of
25 Public Aid registration information for the purpose of
26 verification of claims filed with the Department by owners of
27 medical carriers or rescue vehicles for payment for services
28 to public assistance recipients.

29 (Source: P.A. 89-424, eff. 6-1-96; 89-564, eff. 7-1-97;
30 89-612, eff. 8-9-96; 89-621, eff. 1-1-97; 89-639, eff.
31 1-1-97; 90-14, eff. 7-1-97; 90-533, eff. 11-14-97; 90-655,
32 eff. 7-30-98.)

33 (625 ILCS 5/3-648 new)

1 Sec. 3-648. Gulf War Veteran license plate.

2 (a) In addition to any other special license plate, the
3 Secretary of State, upon receipt of all applicable fees and
4 applications made in the form prescribed by the Secretary,
5 may issue special registration plates designated as Gulf War
6 Veteran license plates to residents of Illinois who
7 participated in the Persian Gulf Conflict between the dates
8 recognized by the United States Department of Veterans
9 Affairs. The special plate issued under this Section must be
10 affixed only to passenger vehicles of the first division,
11 motor vehicles of the second division, and recreational
12 vehicles as defined in Section 1-169 of this Code. Plates
13 issued under this Section shall expire according to the
14 staggered multi-year procedure established by Section 3-414.1
15 of this Code.

16 (b) The design, color, and format of the plates shall be
17 wholly within the discretion of the Secretary of State. The
18 Secretary may, in his or her discretion, allow the plates to
19 be issued as vanity plates or personalized in accordance with
20 Section 3-405.1 of this Code. The plates are not required to
21 designate "Land of Lincoln", as prescribed in subsection (b)
22 of Section 3-412 of this Code. The Secretary shall prescribe
23 the eligibility requirements and, in his or her discretion,
24 shall approve and prescribe stickers or decals as provided
25 under Section 3-412.

26 (c) An applicant must be charged a \$15 fee for original
27 issuance in addition to the applicable registration fee. Of
28 the additional fee, \$13 must be deposited into the Secretary
29 of State Special License Plate Fund and \$2 must be deposited
30 into the Gulf War Memorial Fund. For each registration
31 renewal period, a \$2 fee, in addition to the appropriate
32 registration fee, must be charged and must be deposited into
33 the Secretary of State Special Licenses Plate Fund.

34 (d) The Gulf War Memorial Fund is created as a special

1 fund in the State treasury. Moneys in the Fund may, subject
2 to appropriation, be used by the Department of Veterans'
3 Affairs to provide grants for the construction of the Gulf
4 War Memorial. Upon the completion of the Memorial, the
5 Department of Veterans' Affairs must certify to the State
6 Treasurer that the construction of the Memorial has been
7 completed. Upon the certification of the Department of
8 Veterans' Affairs, the State Treasurer must transfer all
9 moneys in the Fund into the Secretary of State Special
10 License Plate Fund.